PROJECTED WORKS. — Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 16th inst., for a new water wheel and pumps, &c. (separate tenders), for the corporation of the city of Oxford; by 1st September, for the erection of a dwelling-house at Kippax, near Leeds; by 4th September (postponed from 6th August), for works to be executed in a new pauper lunatic asylum at Powick, near Worcester; by 21st inst., for additional building and alterations at Penrith workhouse; by 14th, for the reconstruction of the laundry and erection of steam apparatus for washing, cooking, and heating certain wards in the Thame union workhouse, and other alterations and works at same (building and engineers' work to be separately tendered for); by a date not specified, for the construction of sewers and pipe-drains at Southampton, also of private drains to 150 properties there; by 16th, for the construction of a small iron bridge at Wyming brook, Upper Hallam,—also for roadmaking and walling there; by 21st, for 5,000 yards of broken Guernsey granite, for Whitehall and Regent's-park; and by 28th, for fire-bricks and clay, loam, and glass-grinders' sand for the naval dock-yards.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—West-bridge station, on the North Midland, has been burnt to the ground by spontaneous combustion of 'waste' —grease, oil, &c.——The Huddersfield and Manchester tunnel is said to be more than three miles in length, and to pass at a depth of 652 feet below the ridge of the hill, which it pierces so straight that on a clear day one can see through from either end.——The receipts on the Croydon and Epsom line are said to have increased 13 per cent. by reducing the scale of charge for periodical tickets, increasing the number of third-class trains, and issuing excursion tickets from London at reduced rates.——A correspondent of the *Sheffield Times*, who calls himself "One of the Jury," denies the truth of an assertion in a Sheffield paper, that "the disastrous fall of twenty-one of the arches of the Rother viaduct in September last was occasioned by the premature removal of one of the centres," and states that the fact was fully established that the fall was occasioned by the sinking of one or more of the piers, caused by the insufficiency of the foundations. "From the evidence of other parties," he adds, "and from personal observation on the spot, I can show you that the original foundations of many of the piers were built on an alluvial deposit, and not on the natural formation—that the centres were not removed from those arches which first fell—that twenty-six out of the thirty-five piers have been taken down, although many of them stood erect, and almost uninjured by the fall of the arches—that twenty-five of these piers have been rebuilt *upon piles*, and one on a *much deeper* stone foundation, and that the whole of the piers are this time built up solid, instead of hollow, as was the case in the first instance. Why has all this been done if the fall was occasioned simply 'by the premature removal of a centre?'"

THE IRISH BOG DIGGINGS.—The great discovery noticed in our last is likely to resolve itself, even sooner than we anticipated, into a mere *ignus fatuus*. First comes a cry of despondency from Dartmoor bogs, into which "brother tradesmen" were beguiled by a wicked imp of bog-extraction "equal to the Ashley statement." Then comes Mr. Owen himself, to deny that he had ever made experiments on thousands of tons of bog, had ever expended a fortune in such experiments, or ever carried on for a year such a large establishment as was represented. And Lord Ashley, too, himself, complains of misrepresentation. In short, the bog-spermaceti 'on the table' of the House of Commons seems to have been a true exhalation of bog, that "cast the glamour o'er the een" of even sharp-sighted members the moment it was lighted. A manufacturer of carbonate of ammonia, astonished, or rather amused with the splendid vision, asks in the *Times*, how it happens that 660 lbs. weight of that article can be worth 30*l.*, while he can only obtain 9*l.* 10*s.* for the very same quantity. "If Lord Ashley's informant," he adds, "has been as over-sanguine in the quantity obtained as in the value, this amount should be again divided by three to give a proper result." As to peatine and other articles mentioned, if they were produced in sufficient quantity to regenerate a dozen Irish parishes, they would, he is assured, become so depreciated as not to be worth collecting; and then, as for calling vegetable tar tallow, it must be only meant for a joke. Even the O'Gorman's assurance that the 'spermaceti' was of 'home manufacture' and 'contained no foreign ingredient,' was but an equivocal one, although, we believe, there is no doubt that candles may be extracted from bog.

CHRIST CHURCH, BATTERSEA.—This new church was consecrated, on the 27th ult., by the Bishop of Winchester, attended by a large number of the clergy of the surrounding parishes. The church is of the Decorated or Middle Pointed style, with a tower and spire; the plan is cruciform, with nave, aisles, and chancel, also a children's chapel on the north side of the chancel, opening thereto and to the north transept by pointed archways, which are to be filled with oak open carved screens. The principal entrance is by a doorway, surmounted by a crocketed gablet, in the tower, which is attached to the west end of the nave on the north side. The organ-loft is in the tower. At the east and west ends are large five light windows with traceried heads. The east window is filled with painted glass, by Mr. Ballantine, of Edinburgh, who has introduced prisms of coloured glass (an invention of his own) at the intersections of the pattern, to throw the prismatic rays. In the children's chapel there is a painted glass window, presented by the architect, Mr. Charles Lee. The reading-desk, pulpit, seats in the chancel, and communion railing, are of oak, enriched with carving, by Mr. Ollett, of Norwich. The centre of the pavement of the chancel, as also the risers of the steps, are inlaid with Minton's encaustic tiles. The church will accommodate 950 persons, half being in free-seats, and the entire cost is stated to be a little more than 6,000*l.* We have not yet seen the building.

STAINED WINDOW, ST. PETER'S CHURCH, DERBY.—The east window of St. Peter's Church, Derby, was completed on Thursday last. Five lights compose the lower part, and eighteen (in the tracery) the upper; the former has been described in THE BUILDER at page 273. The subjects of the latter are the resurrection, the ascension, the annunciation, the four evangelists, with their respective emblems, and the apostles St. Paul, St. Mathias, St. Thomas, St. James, St. Barnabas, and St. Philip; the remaining four contain the figures of St. George, St. Patrick, St. David, and St. Andrew, the patron saints of the United Kingdom. Besides these are four small squares which are filled with the arms of the donor, Mr. Simpson, and with angels bearing scrolls. Each of the five large figures in the lower compartment is surrounded with a gorgeous canopy, exact copies from those in the window of the choir of York Minster. Messrs. Barker and Son, of York, are the artists. The execution of the window is good. As for the design, it does not show well for our *artists* that they are found to fly to ancient beauties, which reduces them at once to the level of *servile copyists*.

X. Y. Z.

ROYAL ACADEMY REFORM.—Sir: Is it not a great pity that the institution which takes *the arts* peculiarly under its wing in this country, viz., the *Royal Academy*, should be so unwilling to relax any of its laws for the sake of exciting the public mind to love of art. I have on former occasions suggested that it would be a good thing to let the *lower* public enjoy the exhibition of painting and sculpture, say for a fortnight, at half price, 6*d.*, and for two or three days at quarter price. The Royal Academy are very unwilling to make the least alteration in their ways; what a paltry thing it is that *we* past students should, after *ten years*, have to drop our hands for a shilling every visit we make to the exhibition; one would not mind the catalogue, but it seems unworthy a great public institution, after once permitting a boon, to withdraw it, but still one would not *begrudge* the money if there was good reason to believe that the funds of the academy were really well applied. I say it without hesitation, the funds of the academy are not *fruitfully* spent for the cause of *art*. I have no hostility against the academy, but I do happen to know a good many of the *ins and outs*, and feel with many others that improvement is necessary.—A PAST STUDENT.

IMPROVED IRON PIPES FOR WATER, GAS, AND DRAINAGE. — Sheet-iron pipes, of a peculiar description, were patented in 1838, by M. Chameroy, a French engineer, and have in France been extensively employed for gas, water, and drainage,—being considered more economical than cast-iron, possessing freedom from all leakage, are uninjured by salts or acids, bear great deflection without injury, and for water are far more conducive to health. Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co. have purchased the exclusive licence for their manufacture in England, and erected machinery for executing large contracts. They are made of sheet-iron, bent to the requisite form, strongly rivetted together, and coated with an alloy of tin; the longitudinal joints are also soldered, rendering them air-tight and water-proof. For additional stiffness and protection, they are then coated on the outside with asphalte cement; and, when intended for water, the inside is also coated with bitumen, which resists, like glass, the action of acids and alkalies. They become so elastic by these processes that an 8-inch pipe will bear, it is said, a deflection of 1 foot in 50, without leaking at the joints, or injury to the pipe itself. The vertical joints screw together similar to a cast-iron gas pipe.

CORRUGATED IRON HOUSES. — A house constructed of corrugated iron, by Mr. John Walker, of Old-street-road, has been sent to San Francisco. The structure measures 75 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 20 feet high, and is composed of plates of iron, each 8 feet long: its cost was 600*l.* Mr. Walker has likewise in course of construction eight other corrugated iron houses for California, each having three dwelling-rooms and one store-room. Corrugated iron has considerable strength, with little weight, and seems to have advantages for portable dwellings and store-houses.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGE—COMPETITION. —With reference to a paragraph in our last number, we are requested to mention that, although several architects were invited by the committee of the proposed college about to be erected on the Finchley-road, to send in designs, yet several did not do so, on account of the very short period, of only one month, allowed for preparing the design, and the limited sum to which the competitors were restricted.

A DEFINITION OF ARCHITECTURE.—What do your readers think of the following definition of architecture by Mr. Macaulay, in the 410th page of the first volume of his "History of England?"—"An art which is half a science—an art in which none but a geometrician can excel—an art which has no standard of grace, but what is directly or indirectly dependent on utility—an art of which the creations derive a part, at least, of their majesty from mere bulk."

E.

THE MARBLE ARCH.—Three years ago the suggestion was made in THE BUILDER of placing this arch to form a public entrance to St. James's-park, at Spring-gardens, and it was referred to again a short time since. I wish to make a similar suggestion, with some modifications. To Buckingham Palace there are but the three chief approaches mentioned below,—one down Constitution-hill, the other through Buckingham-gate, the third under the arch at the Horse Guards. Of these, the two former are little better than backways, and a coachman must almost stoop on entering the latter. There is, indeed, no *main* approach; but one glance at the map shows that the Mall in St. James's-park, by the removal of a few houses in Spring-gardens, could be at once converted into a truly main one, conducting direct from Charing-cross to the Palace gates. By removing these houses, and by lopping and trimming the trees, besides supplying the deficiency, a view of the stone building at the end of an avenue of trees would be added to the architectural embellishments of Charing-cross—a new feature, almost, to the capital itself. The marble arch should be placed, to complete this main Palace entrance, within the entrance, and completely detached, after the manner of the Roman triumphal arches, and those in Paris. Providing, then, by this scheme, a main approach to Buckingham Palace, a view of the Palace and the Mall to Charing-cross, and an effective site for the marble arch, I think it must be allowed that the suggestion is worthy of consideration.

H. FIELD, B.A.

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